

**Amendments to the Drawings:**

The attached replacement drawing sheets add the terms "related art" to Figs. 8-11; and replaces the original sheets.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-4 and 6-9 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Figs. 8-11 are amended. Also by this Amendment, claims 1, 7 and 8 are amended and claim 5 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration based on the amendments and remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicant's representatives by Examiner San Martin in the November 21 personal interview. The points discussed are incorporated in the following remarks.

**I. Objection to Drawings**

The Examiner objects to Figs. 8-11 for failure to comply with 37 CFR 1.121(d). Specifically, the Examiner suggests labeling Figs. 8-11 to indicate that they depict related art. Figs. 8-11 have been amended to include the terms "related art". Applicant respectfully submits that Figs. 8-11, as amended, comply with 37 CFR 1.121(d) and thus obviate the objection. Withdraw of the objection is respectfully requested.

**II. Objection to Form**

The Examiner objects to claims 7 and 8 for form. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that the claims recite the feature "the one plate part" in line 2, respectively, and that there is insufficient antecedent basis for this feature. As discussed in the personal interview, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 7 and 8, as amended, obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

**III. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102**

The Office Action rejects claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as unpatentable over Hess (U.S. Patent No. 1,173,801). This rejection is respectfully traversed. As discussed in the personal interview, the claim amendments overcome the §102 rejection.

The Office Action asserts that Hess teaches a clamping means in Figs. 2-4, item C. However, the present application recites, *inter alia*, a "clamping means including a clamping member, separate from said tailpipe, accommodated inside said front end open portion and sandwiching the periphery of said rear end open portion of said exhaust pipe." See, e.g., claim 1. Hess fails to disclose this feature. Specifically, Hess fails to disclose a clamping member that is separate from a tailpipe and accommodated inside a tailpipe thereby allowing for a construction free of projected portions that would interfere with other parts. For reasons including the foregoing, claim 1, as well as claims depending therefrom, are not anticipated by Hess.

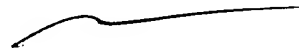
Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

**IV. Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

Eric D. Morehouse  
Registration No. 38,565

JAO:EDM\sqb

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